



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 9
September, 2004

Calendar of Events

Oct 2, 8:30 am	Landscape Extravaganza, St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17
Oct 5-9,	2004 Northeast Regional Conference
Oct 9, 9:00 am	Wetlands Planting, Charles Brown Park
Oct 9, 9:00 am	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17
Oct 16, 9:00 am	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17
Oct 20, 12:00 noon	WHRV Radio 89.5 FM HearSay Gardening Radio Show
Oct 23, 9:00 am	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17
Oct 30, 9:00 am	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Dianne Taylor at 868-4090, e-mail: taylors@exis.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication, please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Youth Growing Chrysanthemums

18 York County youth have been busy growing Chrysanthemums throughout the summer. Rene Kauder is coordinating the program with help from other Master Gardeners (Cherri Cornn, Linda Schutter, Sally Gates) Their organizational efforts provided youth with 20 Chrysanthemums and all of their supporting elements, along with some great speakers. Youth attended classes in accounting, marketing, and horticultural skills. We moved our meeting location because we had so many parents attending that we needed more space to meet. The Chrysanthemums are ready for sale. You can support these young horticulturalists. Call Jody at 890-4940 for a list of participants.



Landscape Extravaganza

Saturday, October 2, 2004 / 9:00 a.m. —12:00 n.
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

The Fall Landscape Extravaganza is a FREE educational program to celebrate the message of 'Fall is for Planting'. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the church off Route 17, near Edgehill. Classes start at 9:00 a.m. Participants attend three out of a selection of six classes. Please promote this event with your friends. Your ability to advertise the program is deeply appreciated.

Class Topics

- ◆ Providing Winter Interest in the Landscape
- ◆ Statuary and Plants as Focal Points
- ◆ Winterizing in the Garden
- ◆ Trees in the Landscape
- ◆ Color Your World
- ◆ Spring Bulbs and Other Plant

Pre-registration is required, contact the Extension office at ex199@vt.edu, or 890-4940 to obtain registration packet.

Dottie Poniatowski



Fall Home Gardener Program

Begins October 9, 2004 / 9:00 a.m. —12:00 n.
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

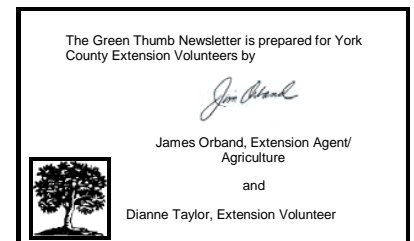
This program will instruct and acquaint the participant with the growing conditions and the plants adaptable to this growing location. Participants will learn proper horticultural practices. Classes are held from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on consecutive Saturdays at the Church off Route 17, near Edgehill.

Tentative Schedule

- ◆ October 9—Lawns
- ◆ October 16—Bulbs and Propagation
- ◆ October 23—Landscaping for the Year Round Garden
- ◆ October 30—House Plants, Winterizing Your Garden Equipment, and other needs

Pre-registration is required, contact the Extension office at ex199@vt.edu, or 890-4940 to obtain registration packet.

Marshall Booker



E-mail Updates

Felice Bond - fbond203@cox.net



Junior Master Gardening Program

The Junior Master Gardening Program was started at Coventry Elementary School in mid April. This awesome program started a little over four years ago as a dream of a handful of master gardeners and educators in Texas. The JMG program introduces children to the art and science of gardening, nutrition and the environment along with involving them in their local community by planning and completing different community/school service projects. The curriculum was developed by Texas A&M in the form of student handbooks and teaching guides for different age levels. Besides the Junior Master Gardening Certification (which entails 44 teaching concepts, 44 individual concepts, and 8 community service projects) there is a Golden Ray Certification (which includes 12 teaching concepts and 1 community service project). The official web site is www.jmg.org.

The students (who were selected by lottery and ranged in ages from 7 – 11) met once a week for six weeks to earn their Golden Ray Certification. We focused on Chapter 3, "Ecology and Environmental Horticulture". During the six week period the students set up a pollution experiment, made vermi-composting bins and created art out of recyclables along with learning how everything we do affects the important balance of nature. Students had homework that both reinforced what was learned in the class meetings and kept parents abreast of what the children were doing. One assignment involved the children interviewing at least one adult to see if they qualified as a "Backyard Buddy". Parental surveys sent home at the end of the course came back with comments such as, "my child was in two clubs and the only one he talked about was JMG"; "my son always wanted a pet and he is so excited about his worms"; "my daughter reminds me daily to turn off the water while I am brushing my teeth", etc.

Since this program was so well received at Coventry, the master gardeners are planning to expand for the 2004-05 school year by setting up the program at three elementary schools. Students who earned their certificates received them at the end of the year awards ceremony at which time Jim Orband, the York County Extension Agent shook hands and congratulated York County's youngest master gardeners! Barbara Dunbar, 766-2174



September Programming Meeting

Reminder: Please plan to attend the September 14 programming meeting at St Luke's. We have all been busy in our gardens this summer and we did not meet in July and August. It's time to get back into the swing of things and get caught up. See you there. Hank Scheele, 833-6362

5th Annual Community Gardening Festival

Presented by
Virginia Beach Master Gardeners

Saturday, September 11 / 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach
**(From I-64, take Exit 282-Norhampton Blvd. Turn left on Diamond Springs Rd.,
then look for posted signs.)**

Speakers

- 10:00 Mark Weathington -- Fall Gardening for Tidewater**
- 11:00 Marie Butler -- Container Gardening
Gloria Winiker -- Flower Trials (held in Display Gardens)**
- 12:00 Ellie Kreassig -- Flower Arranging
Barbara Brawley -- Herb Gardening (held in Display Gardens)**
- 1:00 Tom Ward -- Orchids, Care and Repotting
Laurie Fox -- Water Gardens (held in Display Gardens)**
- 2:00 Randy Jackson -- Grasses for Tidewater
Ruth Burch -- Butterfly Gardening (held in Display Gardens)**

**Activities throughout the day include Children's events, demonstrations,
educational displays, Garden Society displays and sales, Silent Auction,
Bake Sale, Plant Sale , Tree and Plant Doctors.**

Tour the Arboretum and Display Gardens

Master Gardeners from Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk will
assist Virginia Beach Master Gardeners

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

**For more information visit our website: www.vbmq.org
or contact Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Beach Office, (757) 427-4769**

FLASH: Green Horde Gathering in VA

Good morning Edie, Steve and Brian, this is Kelly Wright, Fox News, reporting from Yorktown, VA. In a stunning move sure to shock the citizens of Yorktown, York County Extension Agent, Jim Orband, announced to a hushed town council that all of the County's Master Gardeners will be gathering in one location this September.

"Master Gardeners, newly ordained, young and old, and in some cases legendary, will hold a reunion on Sep. 26th, next to the grounds of the county's Learning Garden", says Orband. He then went on to say that while the attendees would feast on barbecue and potluck, they would also be sharing gardening successes, failures, and tips.

Following Orband's announcement, the town council expressed its concern that having all of its Master Gardeners in one location may require support from the county Sheriff.

"We simply do not have enough deputies," expressed an anonymous council member. The Sheriff is going to need more deputies to restrain the general public from descending on the master gardeners and assaulting them with garden questions and concerns. Specifically, they fear that the public may kidnap some of the master gardeners, take them back to the kidnappers' homes, and force the master gardener to assess the status of their gardens and yards.

"Our master gardeners are a resource the county cannot afford to lose," stated Sheriff Diggs. The Sheriff then went on to assure the council that he has enlisted the support of local law enforcement agencies. He also stated that the Sheriff's Department would assist the county's Health Department in setting up portable sinks near the picnic grounds. Health department officials want to ensure that master gardeners unable to restrain from digging into the dirt - my mistake - soil, will have a place to clean up before they dig in to their feast.

"Kelly Wright reporting from Yorktown, Va, Back to you Edie, Steve, and Brian."

As you can see, the up coming MG picnic is generating a great deal of excitement. Please don't miss it. We are asking you to RSVP this year so we can have an accurate head count for our planning and purchases. Our wish is to see all MGs, whether active or inactive, that can possibly make it to this year's social on Sunday afternoon from 2 – 5 p.m., Sep 26. The picnic committee will be providing pork BBQ to go with the potluck item that you bring. An entertaining speaker will round off the occasion. Please RSVP to Jody Painter (jopainte@vt.edu) or 890-4940.



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We're on the Web!
www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

September 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 HRAEC Field Day Details call 363-3900	2	3	4
5	6	7 9am-12n, MG Training Orientation	8	9	10	11 10am-12n, Lawn Clinic, Ken Matthews
12	13	14 9:30-11:30am, Monthly Planning Meeting, St Lukes	15	16	17	18 10am-12n, Lawn Clinic, Tradewind Drive Virginia State Arboretum at Blandy Farm (education opportunity)
19	20	21	22 12n, WHRV 89.5 Gardening Radio Show 6:30pm, 4H Mums Project: Growing Mums for Fun and Profit	23	24	25 10am-12n, Lawn Clinic, Poquoson Ave
26 2-5pm, York County Master Gardener Home Coming Picnic / pre-register jopainte@vt.edu or 890-4940	27	28 NE District Agents Fall meeting	29	30	1	2 9am-12n, Landscape Extravaganza